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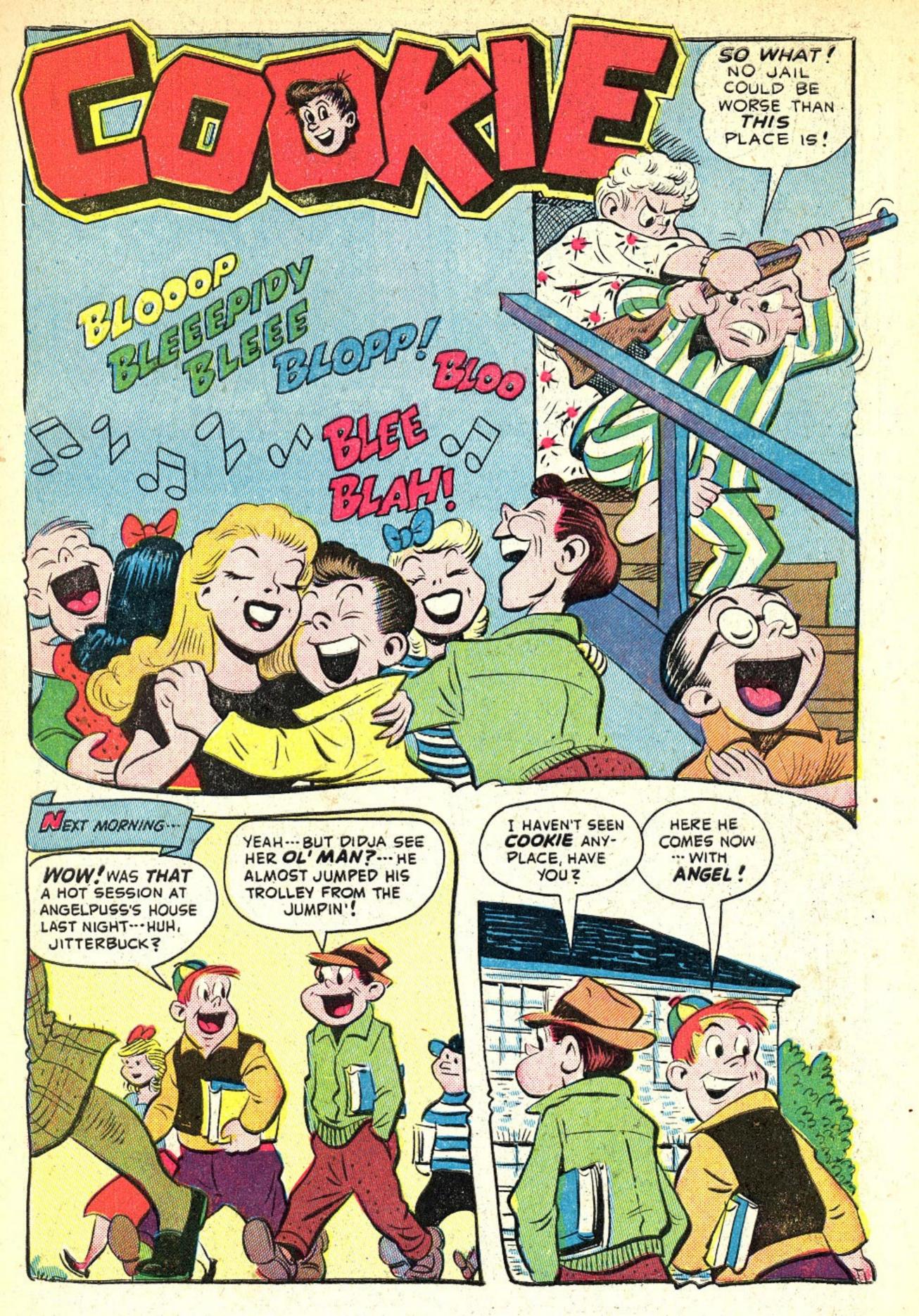


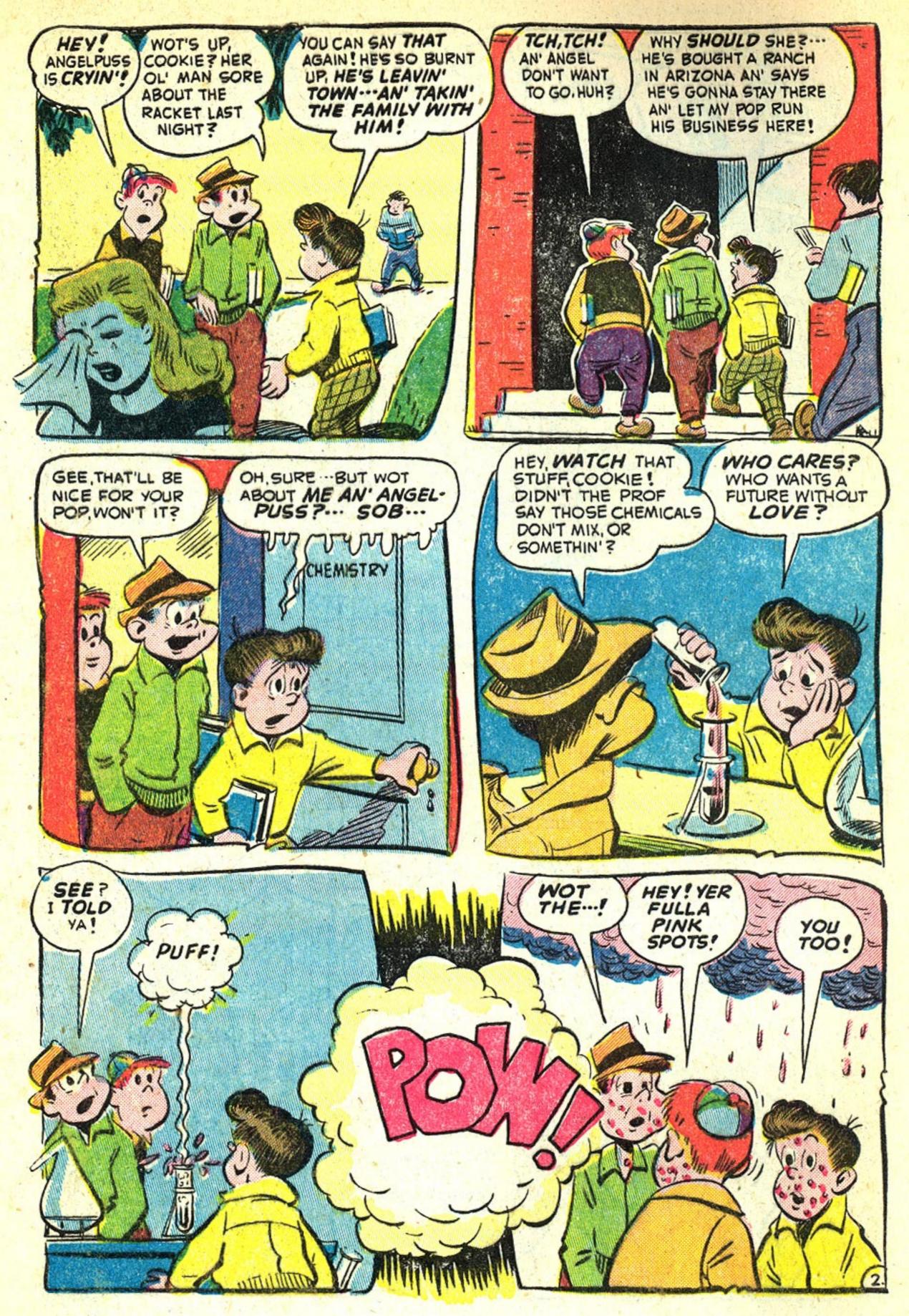
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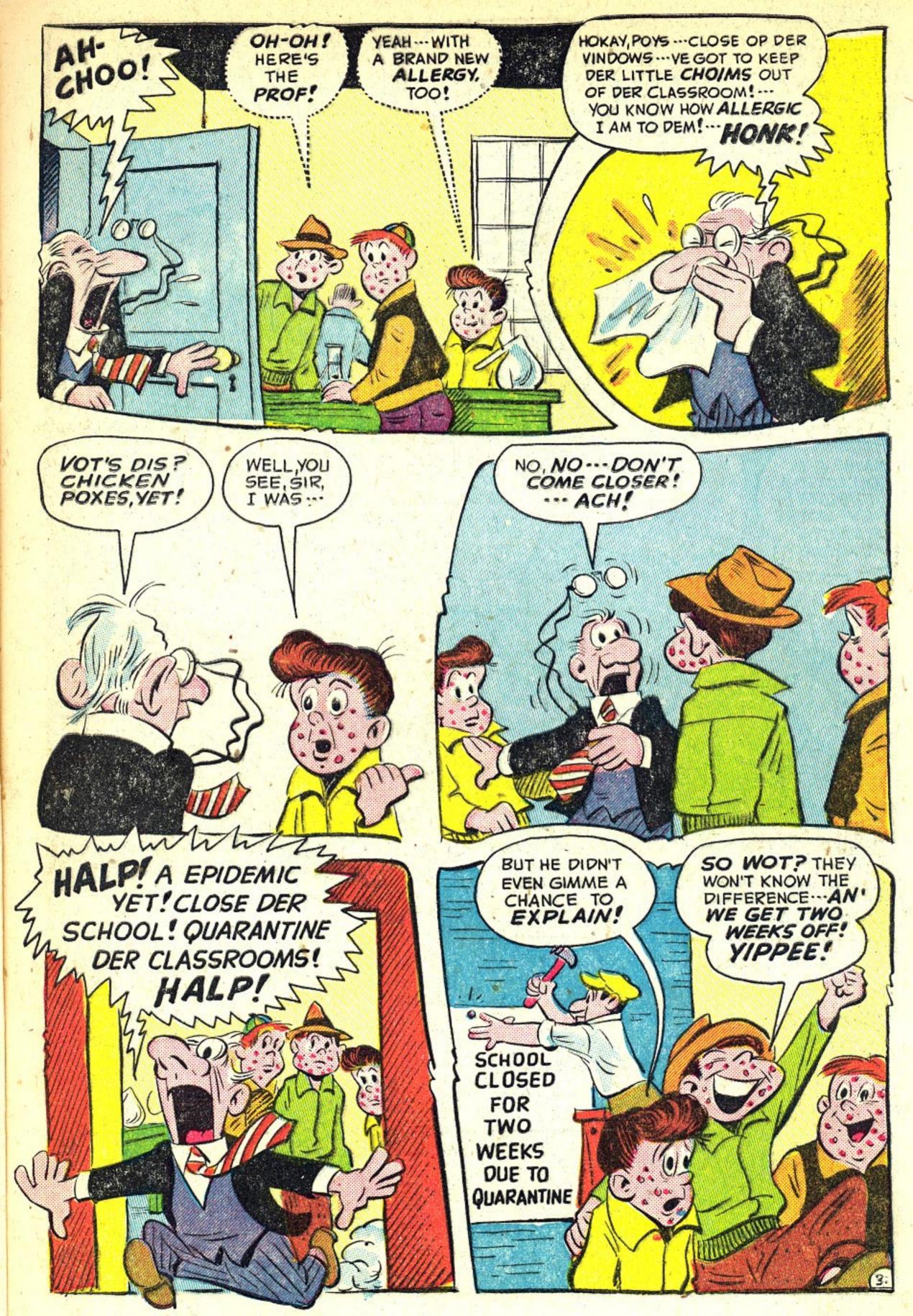
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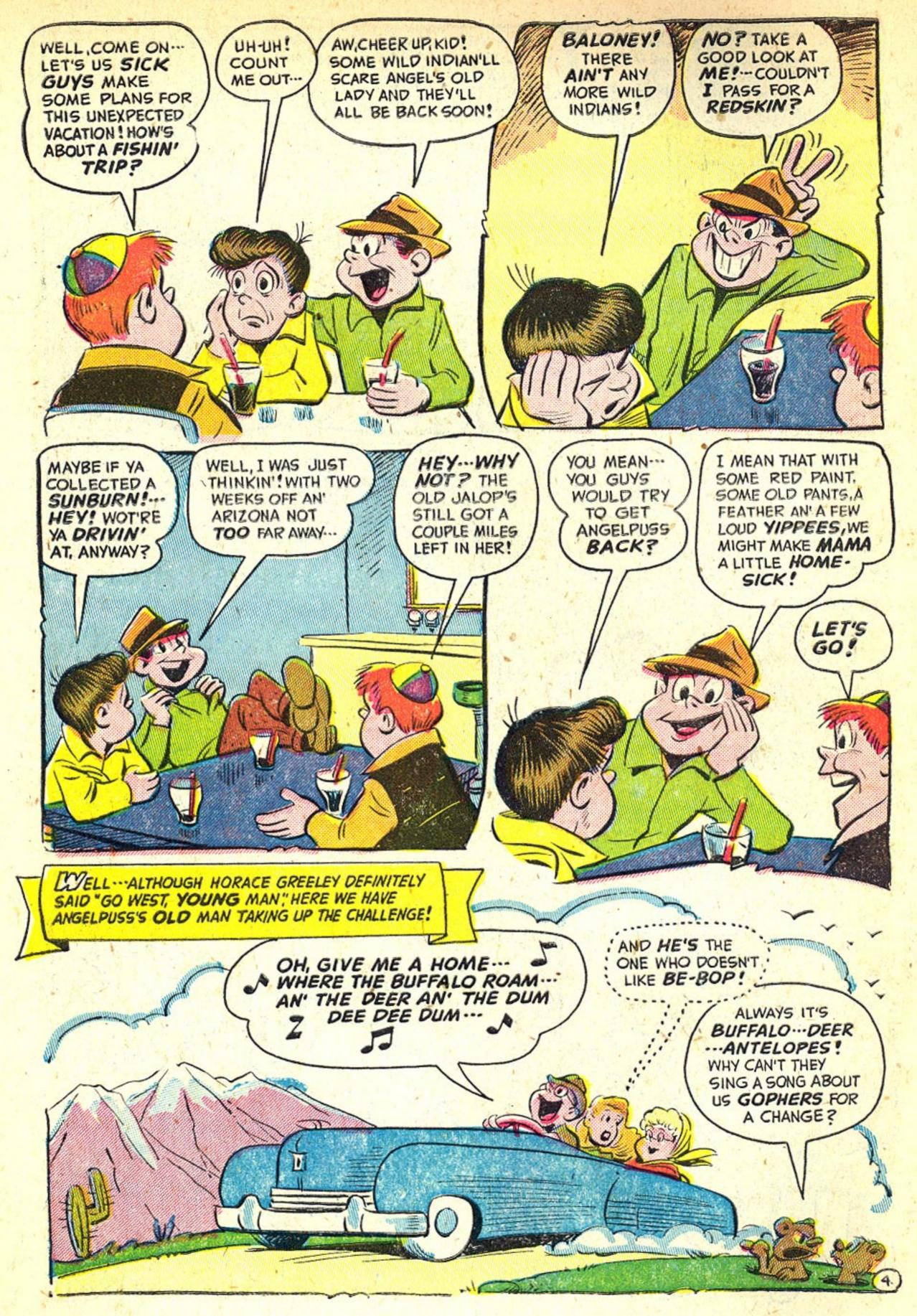


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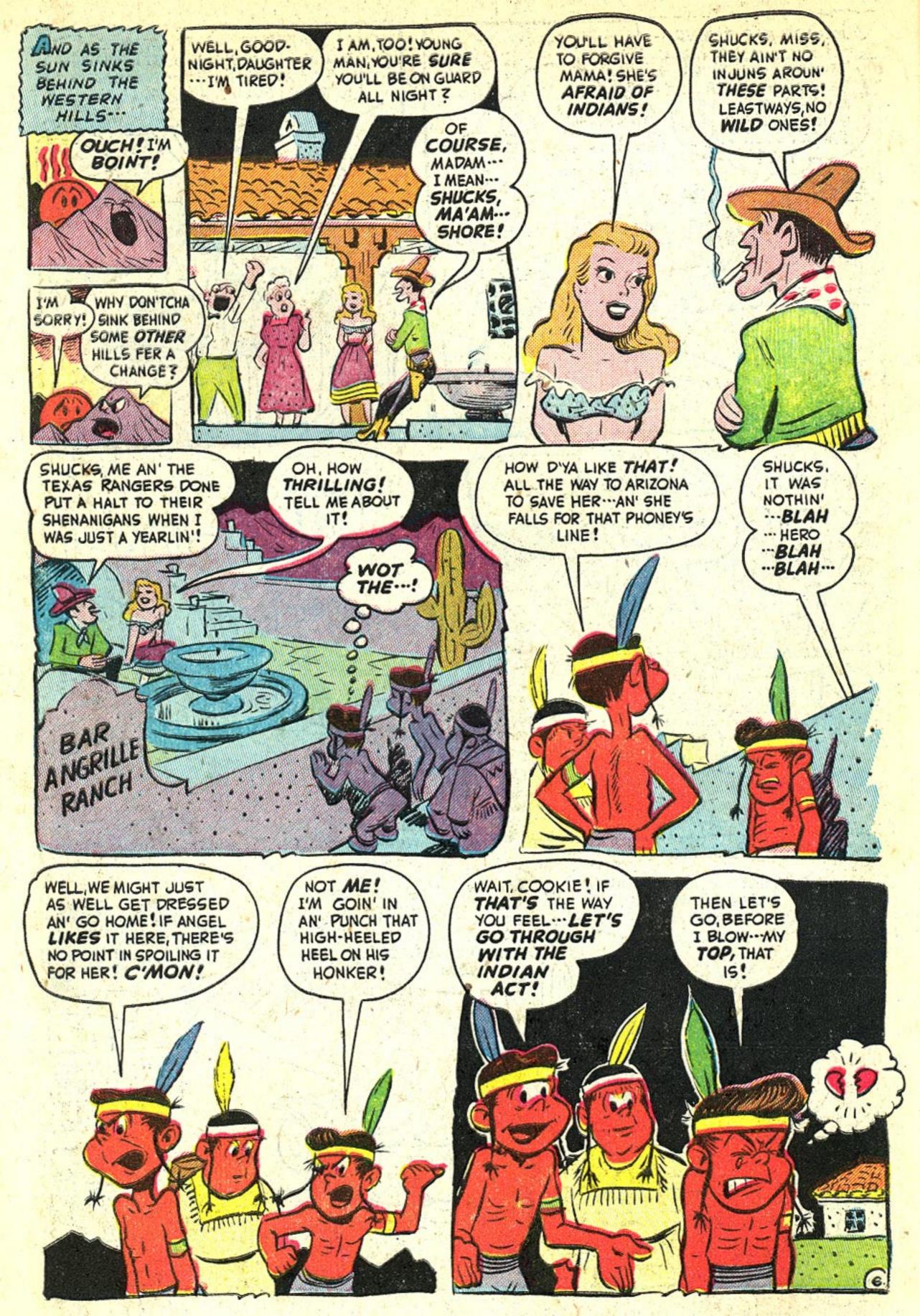


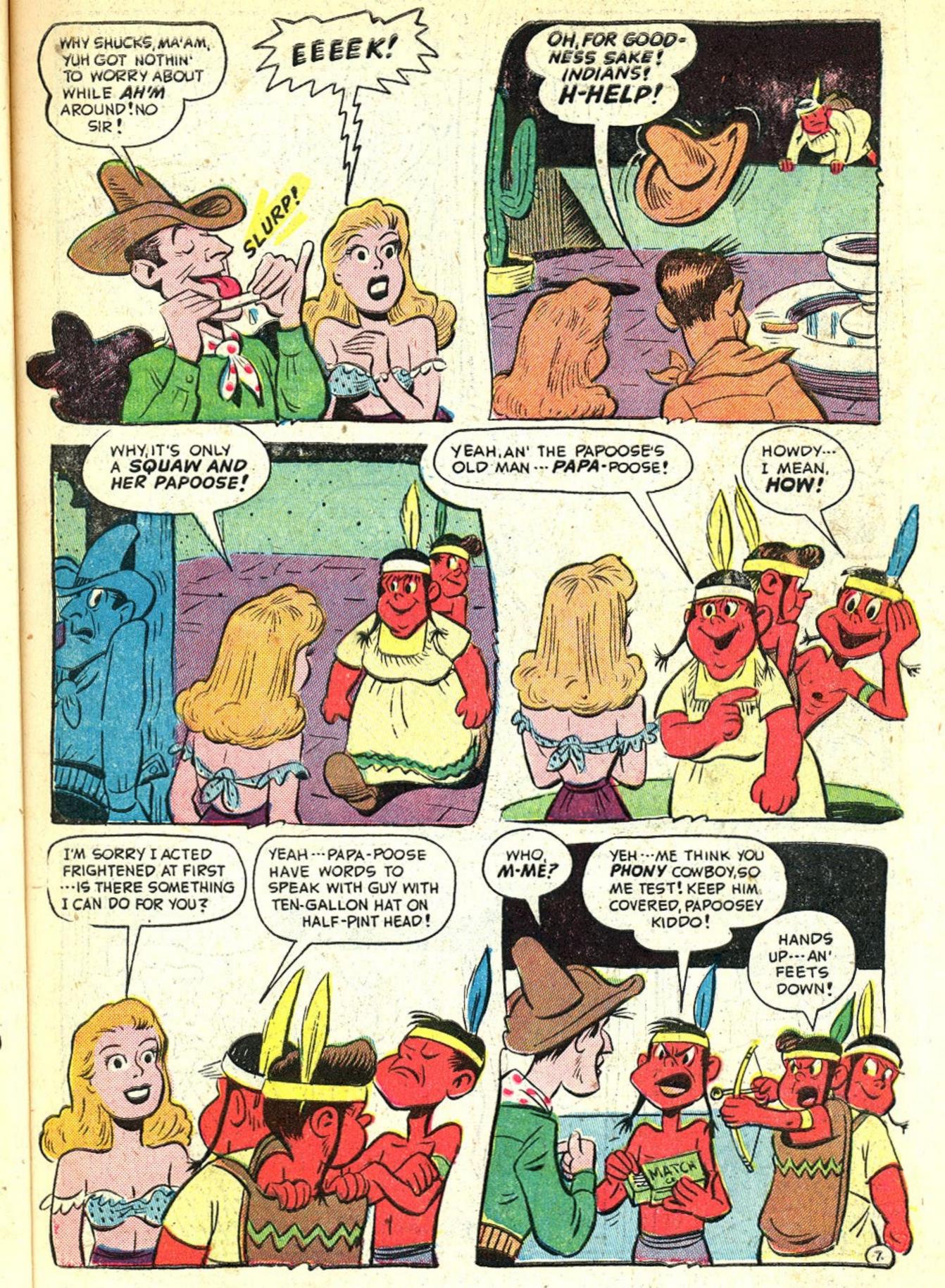


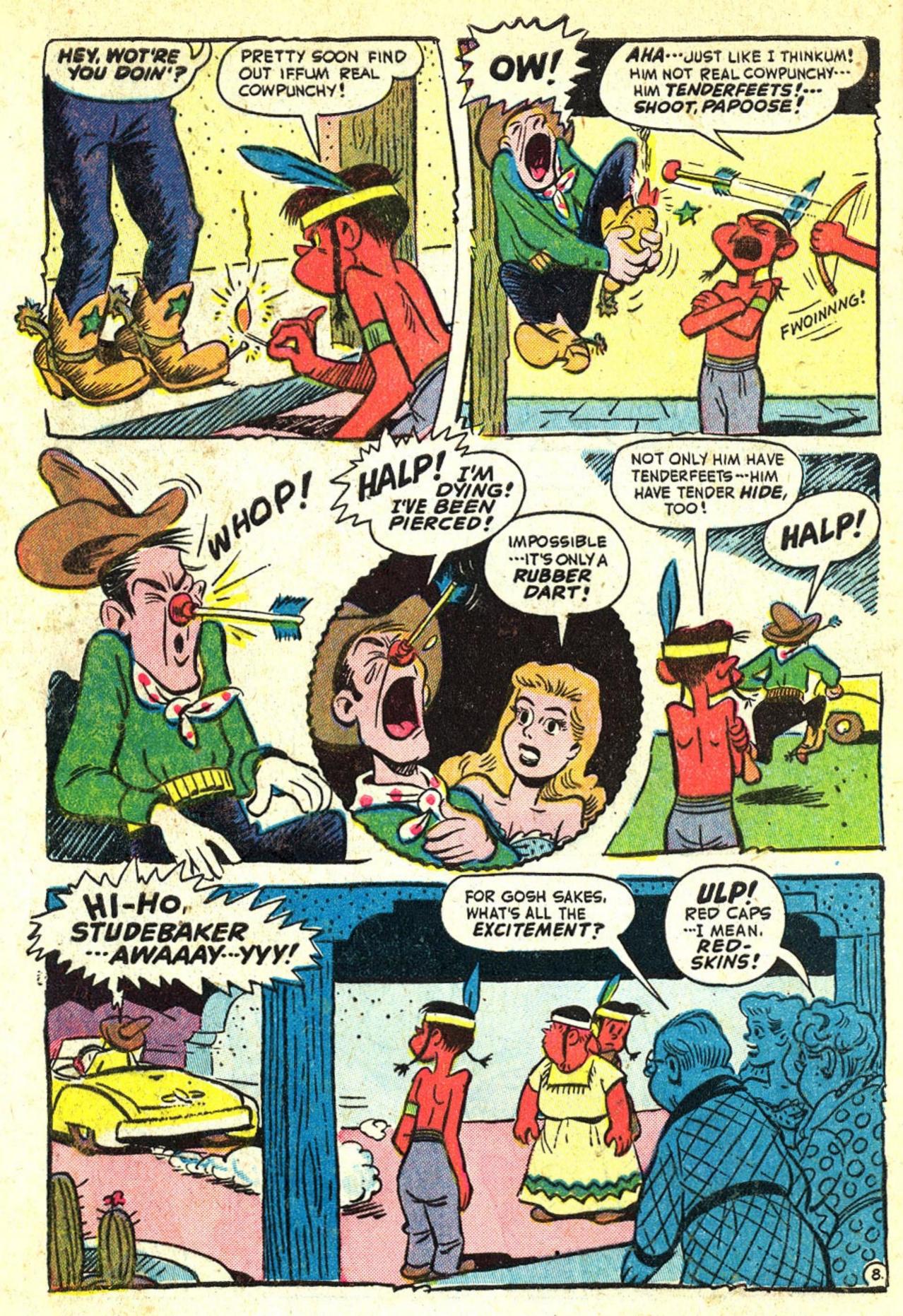








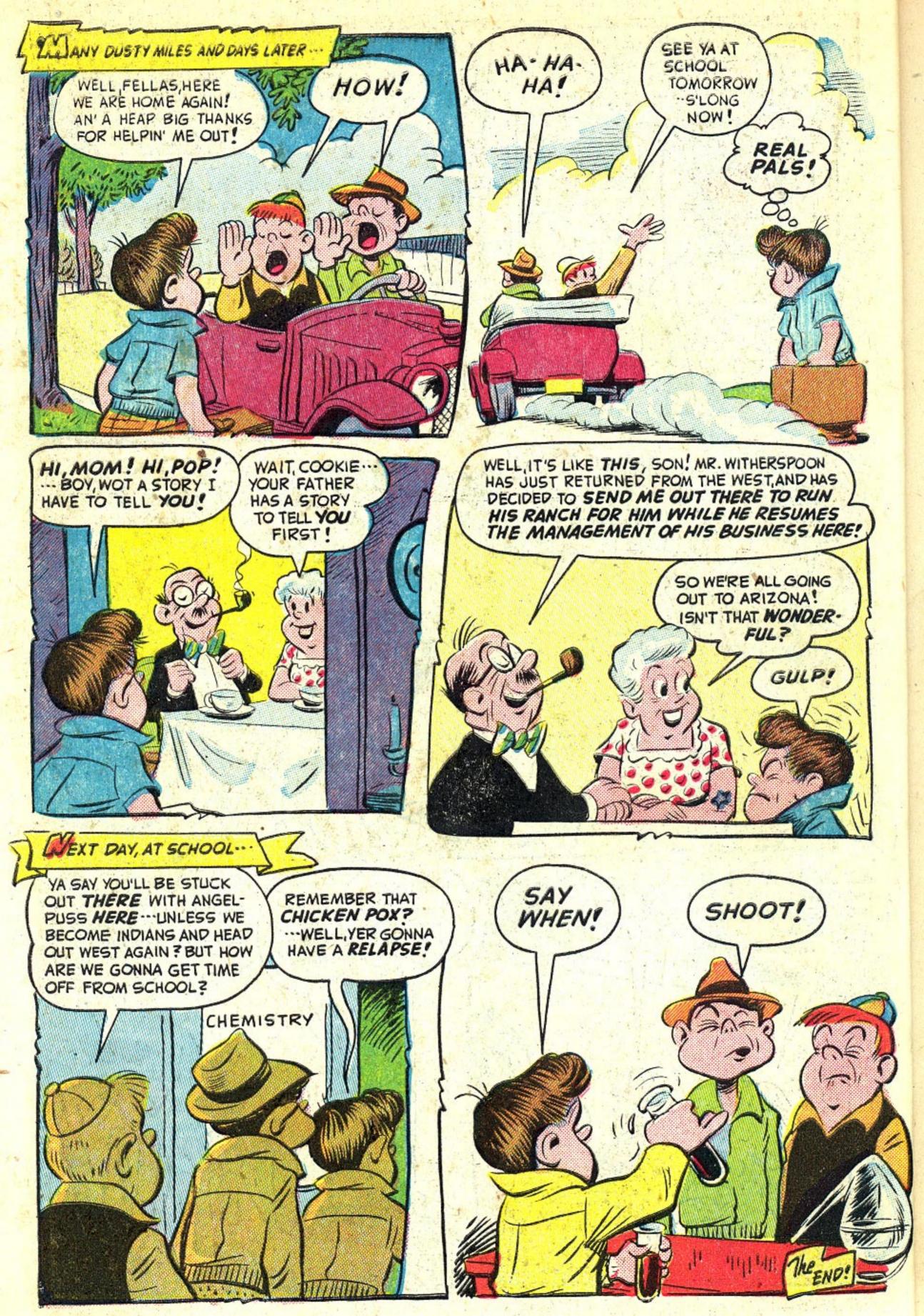




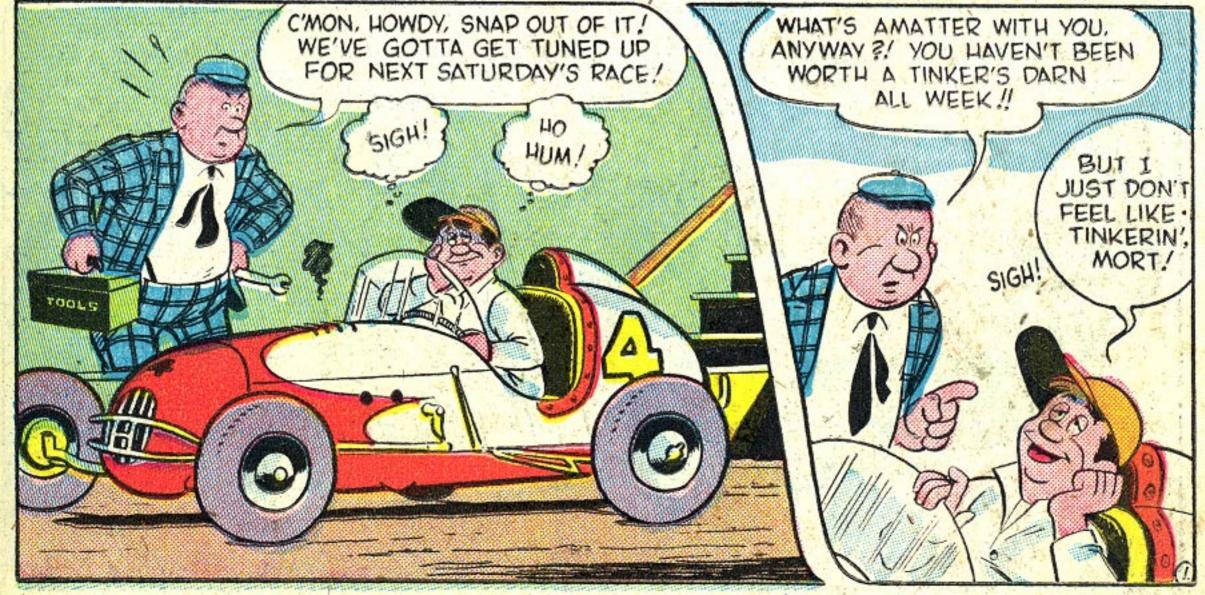


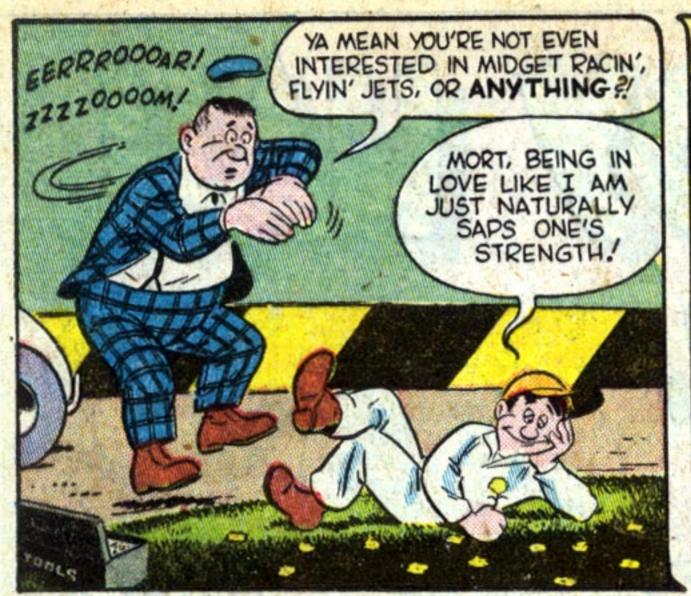


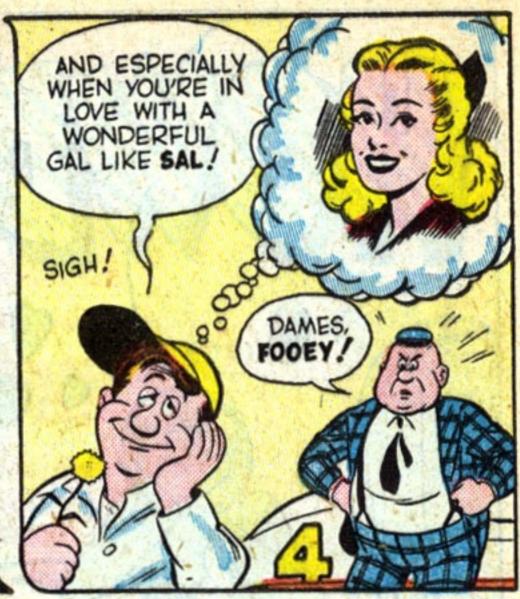




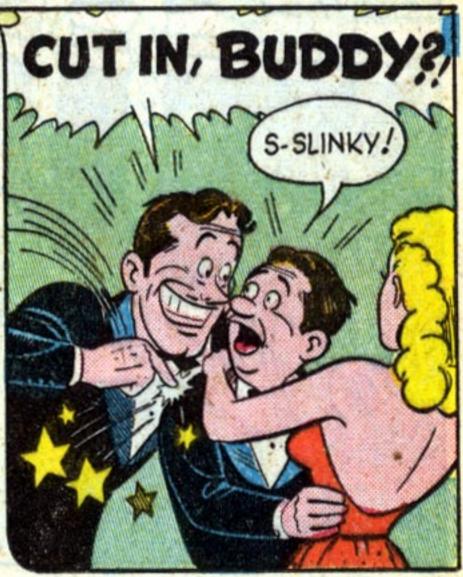






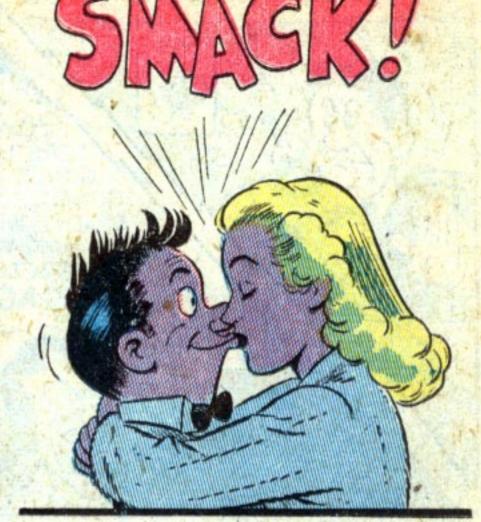


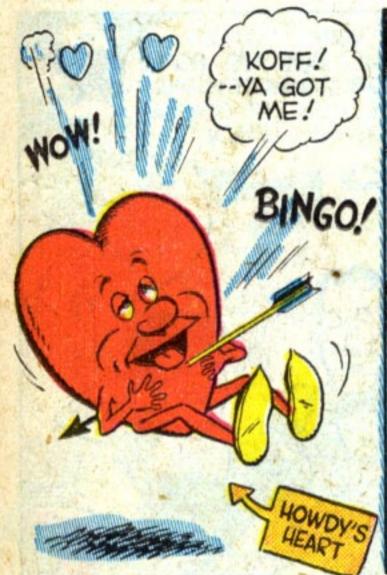


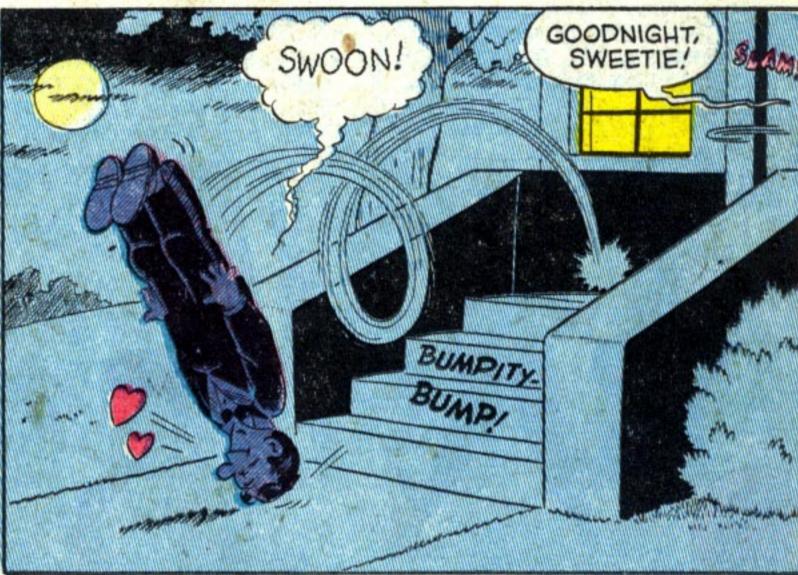






























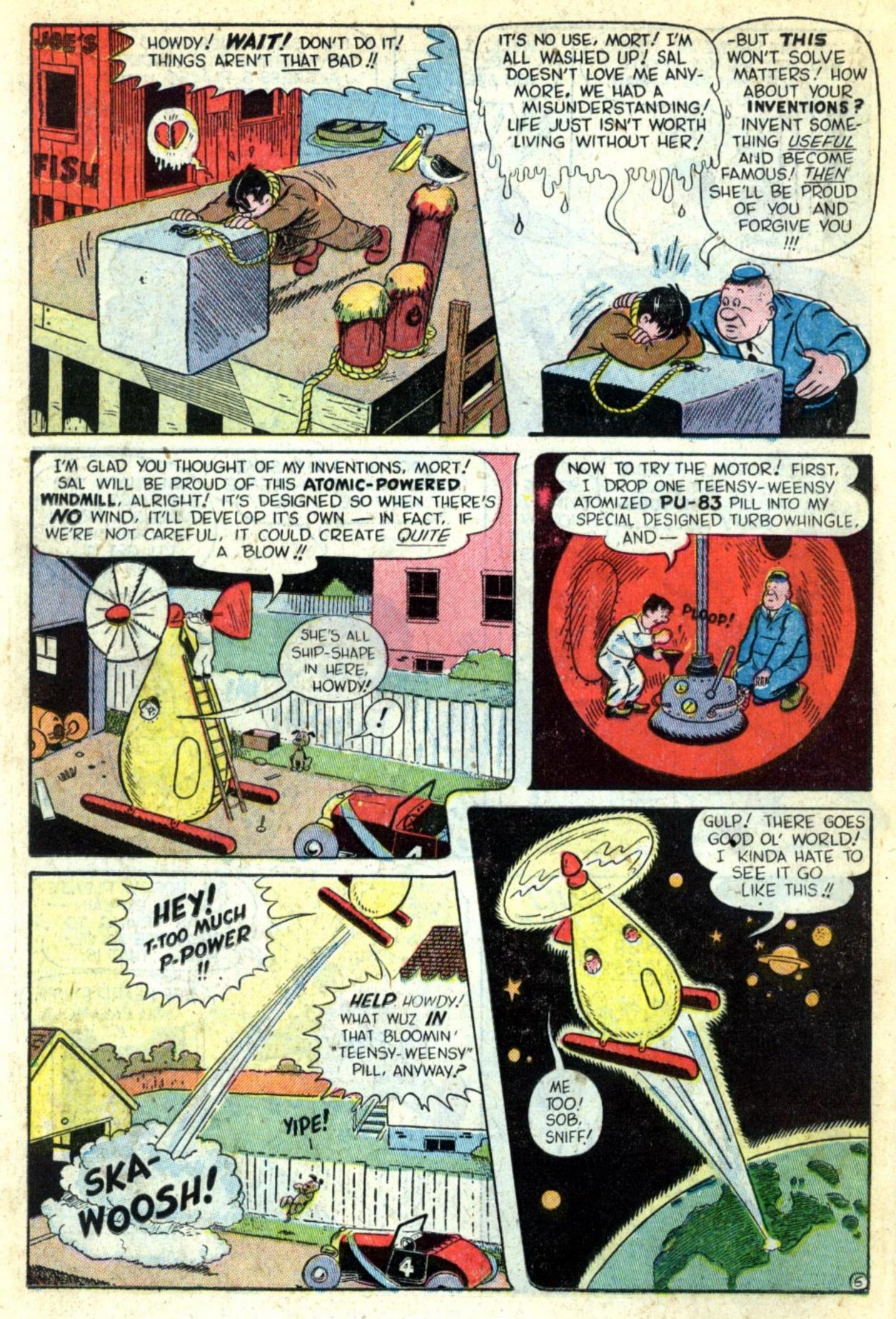




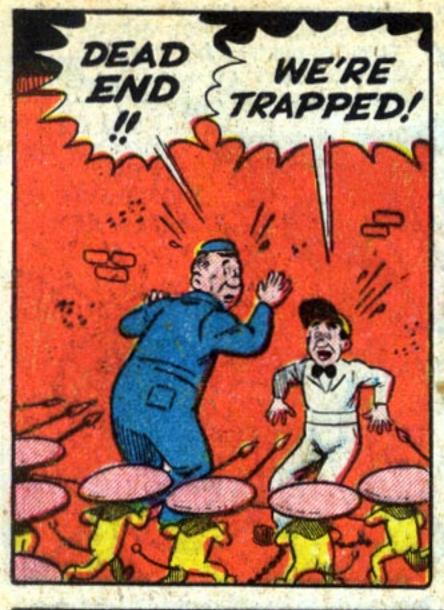


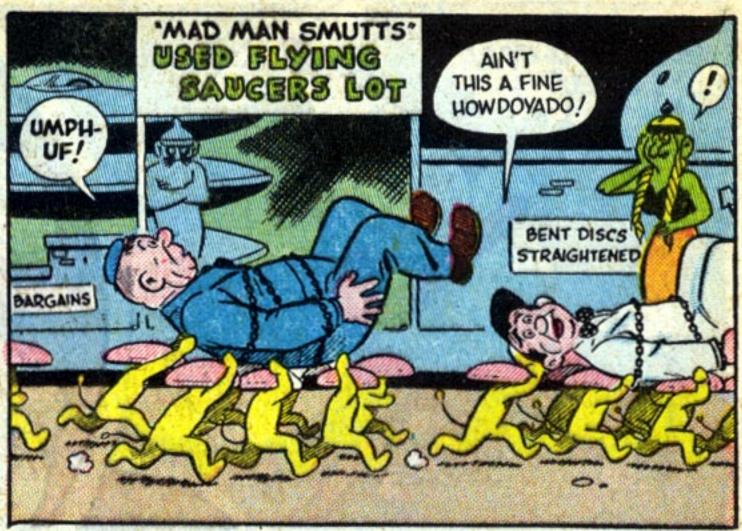


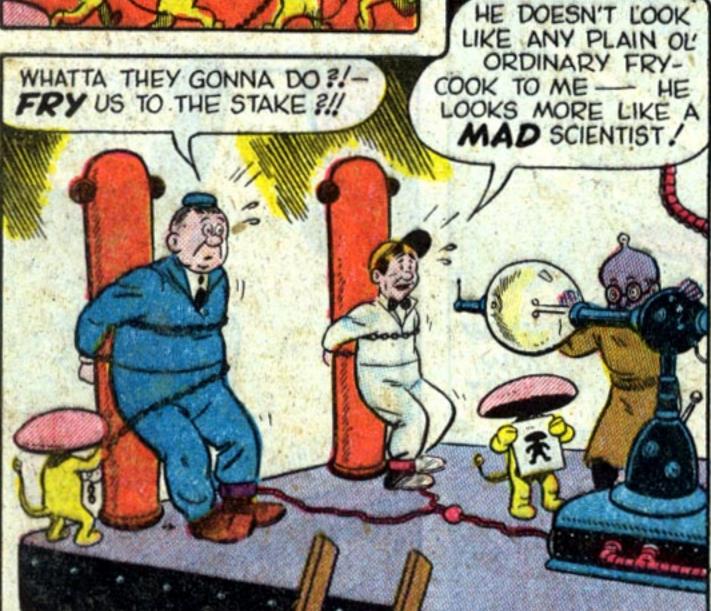








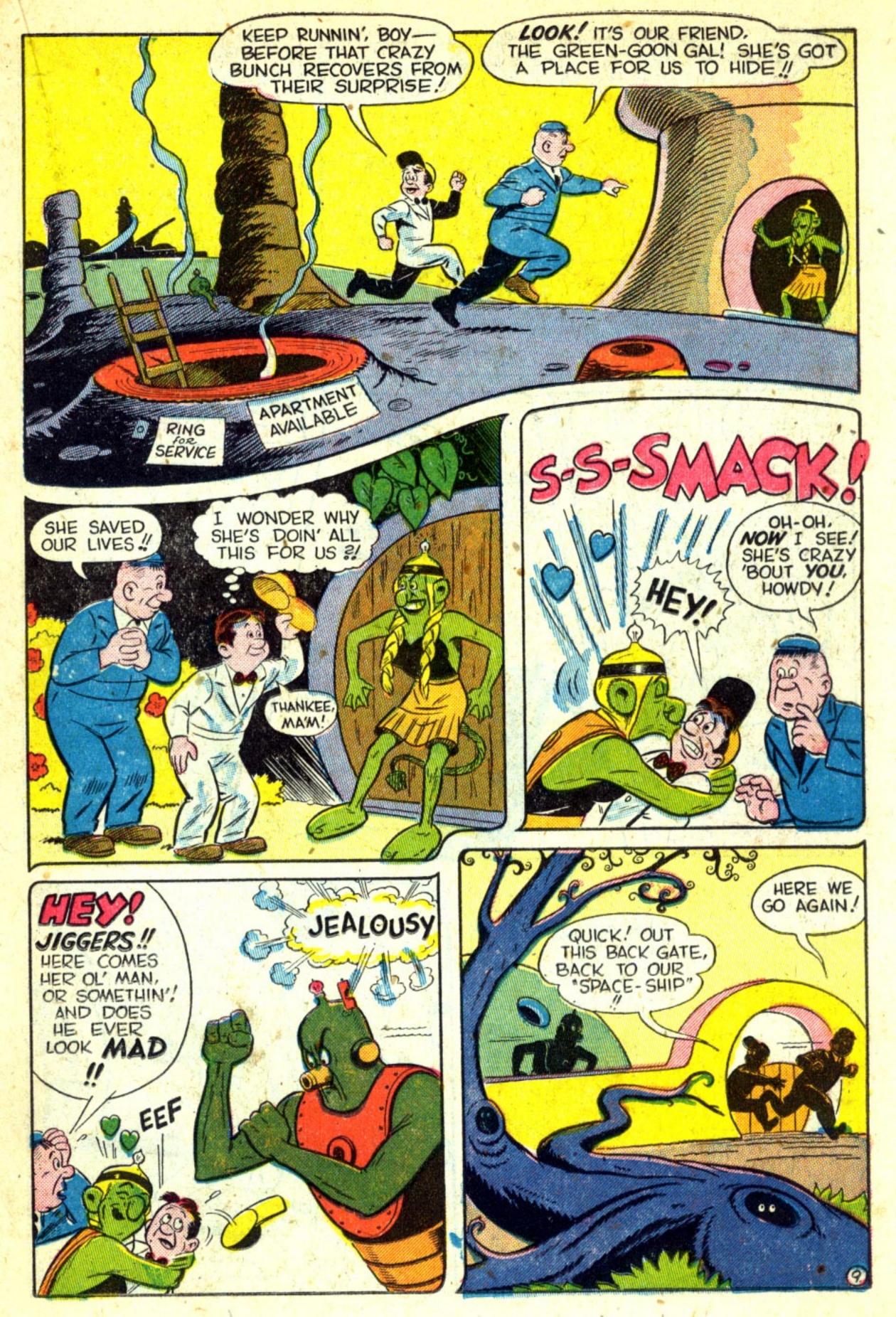


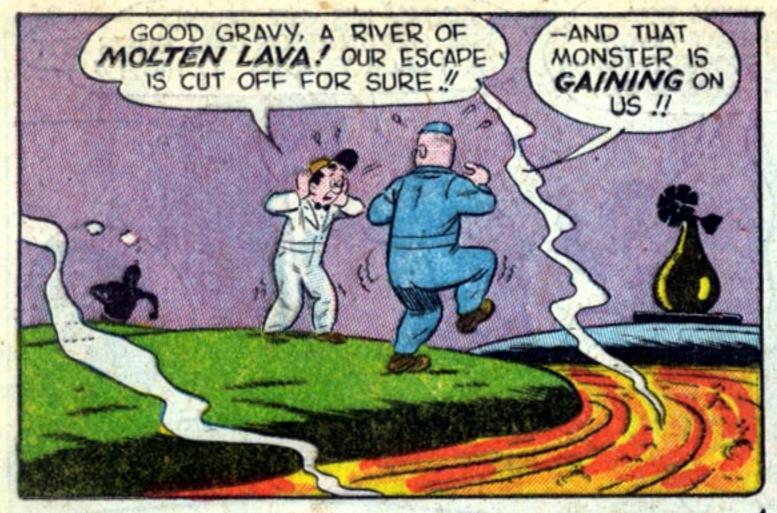








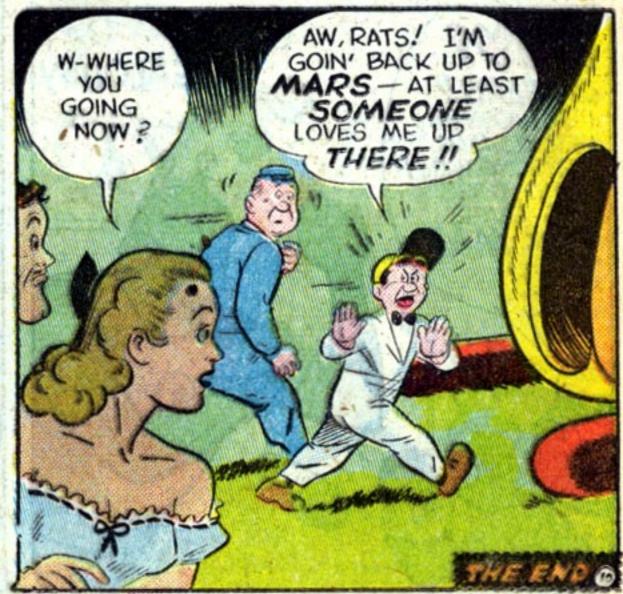












EMITCH SMITCH!

COOKIE shut his eyes tightly, reached all the way down into the grab bag and ... prayed!

The grab bag was a brand new idea. It hung in the school auditorium, closely guarded so that there would be no trickery. Above it was a sign reading "Grab your partner for the Grab Bag Dance! Who will she be?" And inside it were the names of almost all the girls who attended Harelip High!

No wonder Cookie was nervous as he untwisted the little slip of paper that bore his partner's name! Would she be—? Could she be—? Was it possible—? It was!

"Yippeee! Heigh-ho! Zowie! Boinning!"
Cookie's exclamations of happiness knew no bounds. "I've won her! I've won Angelpuss!
The girl of my dreams is going to be my partner!"

"Not so fast, Nature Boy!" Zoot's voice had the same effect as an ice cube down Cookie's back. "I've got a hunch that I'm taking Angelpuss to the dance!"

"But... but you can't!" Cookie exclaimed.
"I won her fair an' square, square! See? It says right here on this important document...
'Angelpuss Witherspoon!'"

"I see that you need some convincing," Zoot remarked coolly. "How would you like it if I happened to tell just who it was that tied all the clothes on Miss Bibblesnicker's line into little knots?"

"But I didn't . . . "Cookie started to protest his innocence. And then, in a surge of friendship and loyalty, he realized that he could not deny that crime without admitting that he knew who the real culprit was. Was a dance, even with the most wonderful girl in the world, worth such an act on his part?

For a brief moment, the struggle within Cookie raged fiercely. Angelpuss Witherspoon versus Cookie's loyalty to a pal! And then, with a sigh that shook his entire frame, Cookie gave in.

"Okay, Zoot, you win! Here's the slip with Angel's name on it! Who'm I takin' instead?"

Silently, Zoot handed him a little slip of paper. Cookie read the name and shuddered. "Lola Schultz!" he quivered. "I'm swappin' Angelpuss Witherspoon for Lola Schultz!"

"That's it, cornball!" Zoot grinned. "You are switching gals, an' taking Lola instead of Angel . . . whom I shall escort!"

Neither boy had any suspicion that Zoot's last words had been overheard. Neither of them so much as suspected that at that very moment, Lola Schultz was congratulating hereself. "Hmm," she said, preening, "Cookie O'Toole must be crazy about me! And to think I never even knew it! Hmmm..."

The night of the Grab Bag Dance was a black night for Cookie O'Toole. In friendship's name, he had sacrificed his girl to the boy voted most likely to try to steal your girl. What was even worse, if possible, was the fact that instead of Angel, Lola Schultz was pinning on his corsage and giggling like a fool.

"Oh, Cookie," she tittered, clinging to his arm like a sack of meal, "isn't it wonderful that you chose me?"

"I didn't choose you," Cookie started to explain. "It was fate!" he added lamely, realizing that the truth could never pass his lips.

Lola just giggled knowingly.

The dance was just one big nightmare for Cookie, as he navigated Lola around the floor and looked eagerly for Angelpuss. If he couldn't be her escort, he could at least dance with her. Frantically, he searched for the blondest page-boy in the gym.

"Ah! There she is!" His eyes lit up as he saw a golden-haired vision of loveliness in a pale blue gown. The only thing wrong with the picture was that she was dancing with Zoot.

"I'll soon fix that!" Cookie murmured, steering Lola with difficulty towards the bandstand. "Hi, Angel!" he crooned, a tremor in his voice.

Angelpuss' face lit up, too! "Hi, Cookie!" she answered tremulously.

"Could . . . could we switch partners for this dance?" Cookie asked of no one in particular.

"I should say not!" Lola Schultz's voice was firm. "You escorted me, Cookie O'Toole, and you're dancing every dance with me!"

"Well!" Angel's tone was sharp, "You act like you own Cookie, Miss Schultz! Let me remind you that he didn't choose to escort you! He just happened, unfortunately, to pick your name out of the grab bag!"

Lola turned a bright red. "Is that so!" she snapped scornfully. "That's all you know about it, Miss Witherspoon! It just so happens that Cookie picked your name out of the grab bag and switched with Zoot for mine! Am I right, Zoot? Am I right, Cookie?"

There was a shocked silence after this speech. Angel's large eyes filled with quick tears of hurt. Cookie's heart swelled with rage at this base misrepresentation.

Still, could he tell all . . . and put a pal's head in the lion's mouth? Mis Bibblesnicker was violent when aroused to anger! No, he must keep silent.

Meekly, Cookie admitted that Lola was

Never had Angelpuss been so furious . . . never! The tears vanished from her eyes to be replaced by an angry brightness.

"Oh, so it's true, is it?" she repeated. "You switched my name for Lola's! Well, listen to me, Cookie O'Toole! I never want to speak to you again! I shall return your gifts by messenger!"

She then turned on Zoot. "As for you," she continued, "I feel exactly the same way! To think that you were a party to this . . . this switch! To think that you let him do it!"

"Let me" Cookie cried, but Angelpuss would hear no more.

"I'm going home right now!" she announced. "I'm sure that my old friend, Jitter-buck Jones, will be happy to see me to my door!"

But, search as she would, Angelpuss could find neither clue nor trace of J.J.! He just wasn't there! As she looked frantically through the gym, Angelpuss was trailed by Zoot, Cookie and Lola. Zoot tried to persuade her to give up the search. "C'mon, Angel," he insisted, "you might as well finish the dance with me. Jitterbuck's not here!"

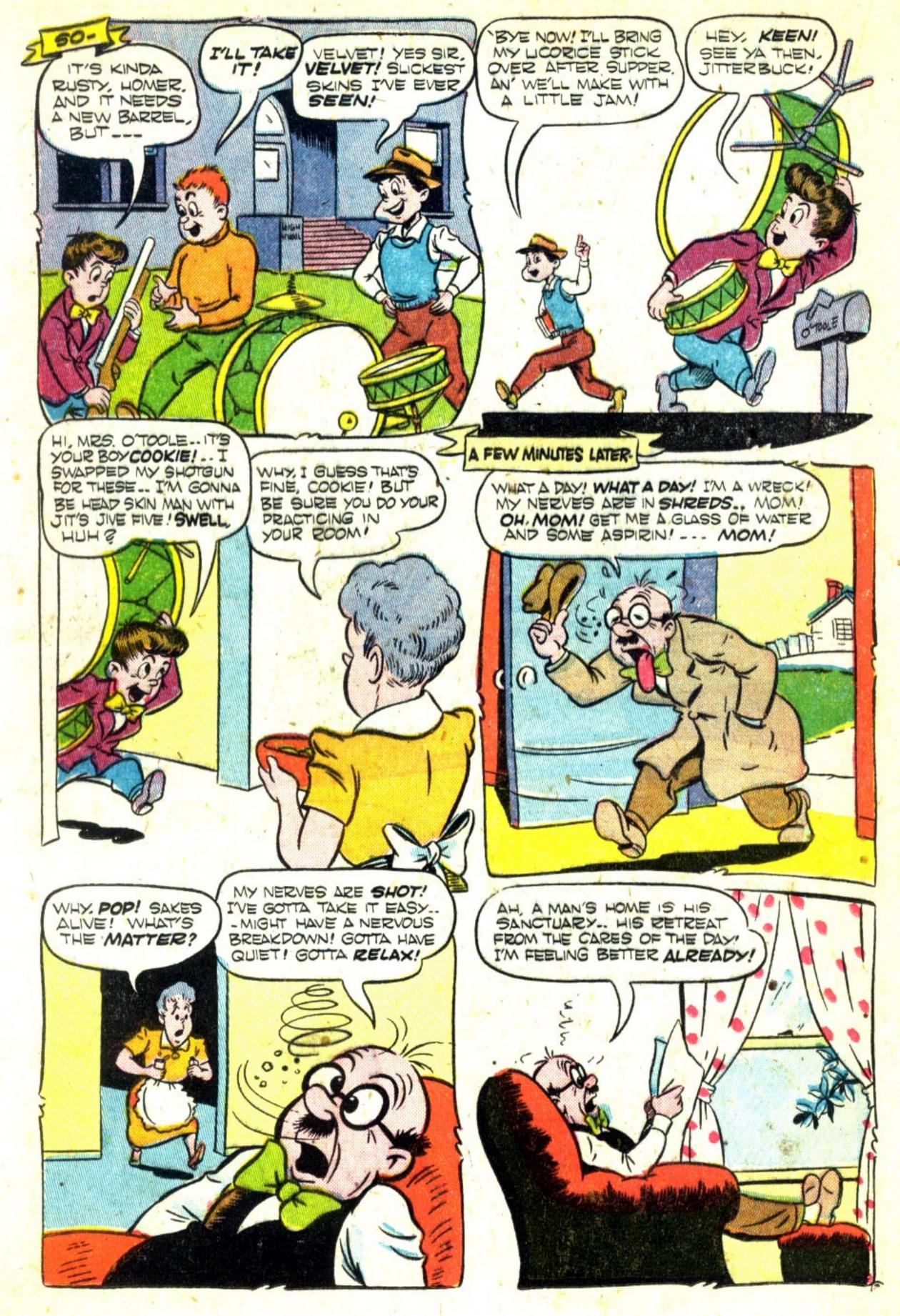
One of the kids in the band looked pityingly at Zoot. "I'll say he isn't!" he laughed. "That boy's in solitary for the next two weeks! He can't go out till he's served time for puttin' all them little knots in Miss Bibblesnicker's clothes... on the clothesline. I mean!"

"Blackmailer!" shouted Cookie. "Angel, dreamboat, vision, one-and-only! To think that I have been protecting Jit's name and reputation all this time! You're finishing this dance with me . . . and all the others!"

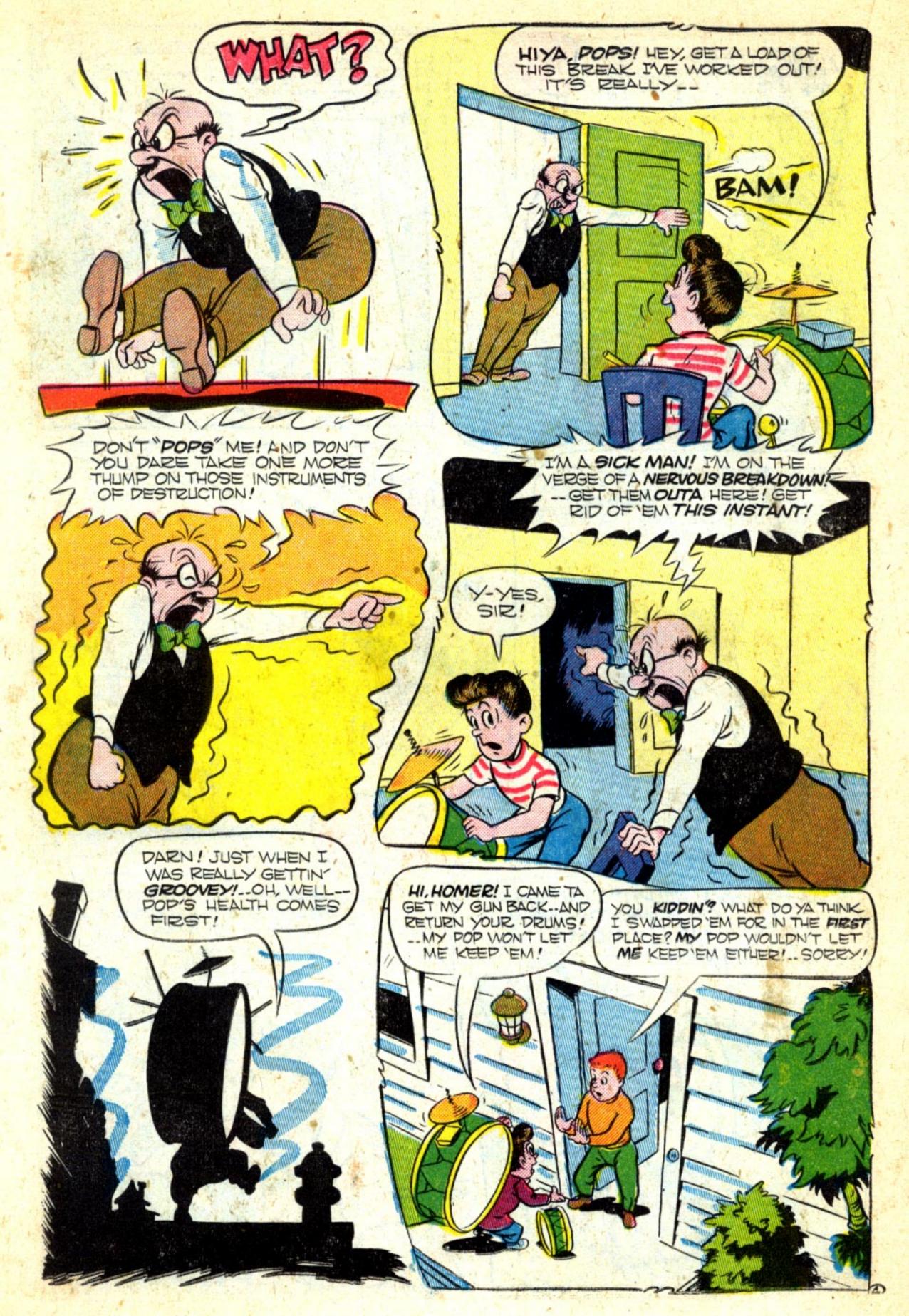
Angelpuss slid happily into Cookie's arms.
"I don't understand what happened," she said,
"but you'll tell me later, won't you?"

"Don't talk, Angel," Cookie commanded.









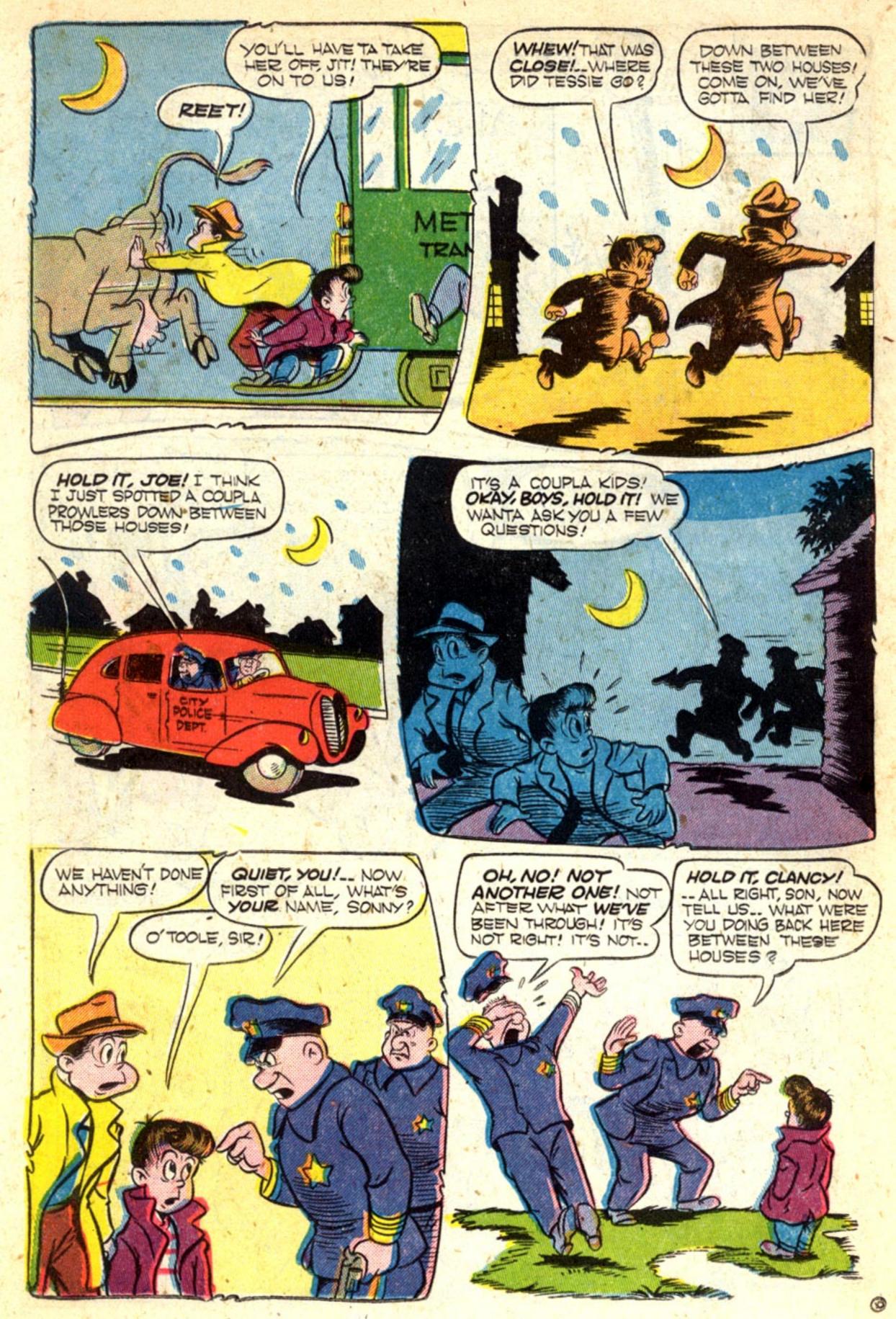




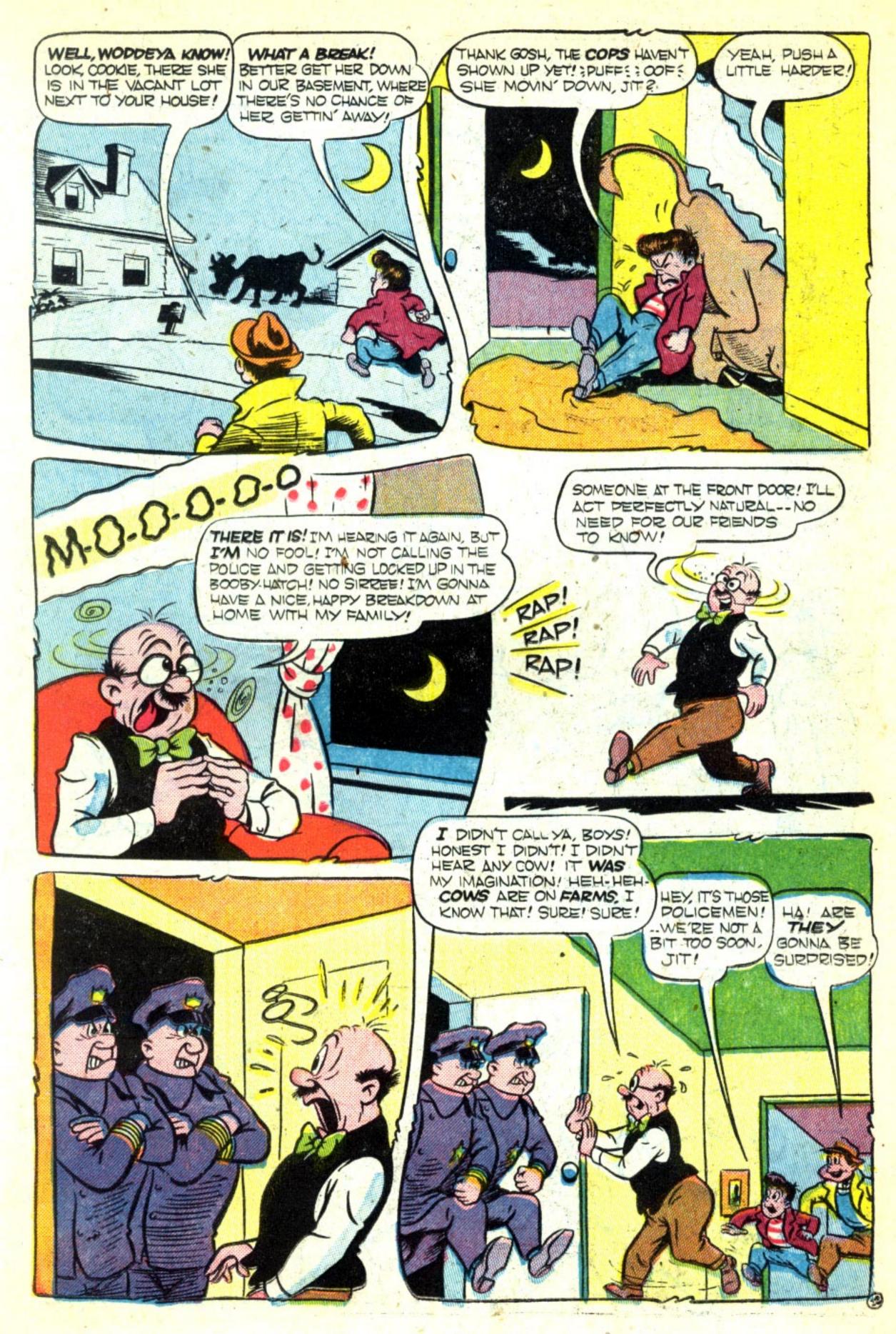




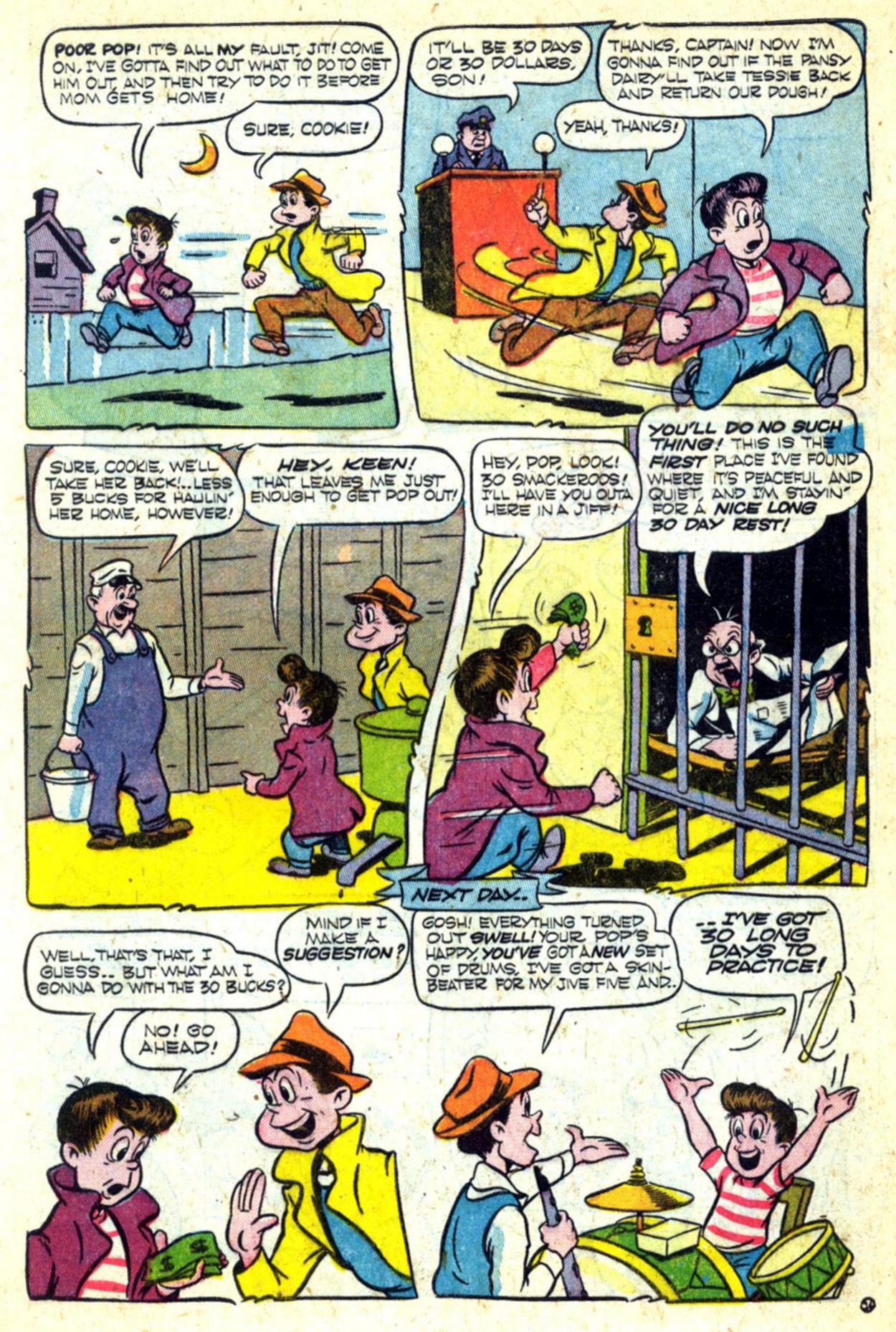












JITSHAES OUT

ITTERBUCK JONES was a sorrowful sight as he walked towards the teacher's desk and murmured his tale of woe. Those up in front could hear

him say "toothache . . . dentist . . . this afternoon . . . painful," grimacing

with every word.

The teacher smiled understandingly at Jitterbuck. "Of course you may leave early," she said. "Naturally, a dentist's appointment must be kept on time, especially in an emergency!"

Jit attempted a thankful smile as he left the classroom. It was perfectly true that he was suffering from an inner hurt, but it was not his tooth that was bothering him. It was his conscience!

For he had lied to the teacher. Jitterbuck Jones was not going to the dentist's office. He was going to the baseball game!

Somehow, the feeling of freedom that Jit had thought he would have was lacking, as he walked through the gates and began to climb 'way, 'way up to his seat in the bleachers. In fact, Jit had an uncomfortable sensation in his chest. Sort of guilty!

Nor was he any happier when he realized that his seat was so cleverly placed behind a post, that he would be lucky to catch an occasional glimpse of the diamond far below!

A vendor went by, hawking his wares in a loud, ringing voice. "Candy, ice cream, soda pop, candy, ice cream ... how about some soda pop, sonny?" He addresed Jit.

"Uh . . . no. No, thanks." Jit shrank down in his seat, afraid that the vendor had called attention to his unauthorized presence at the ball game. Suppose someone should see him and tell someone who would tell someone else? Suppose it should get back to the teacher that he had lied his way out of the classroom and into the ballfield? It was all too horrible for words!

"I'd better not think about it," he gulped, squirming in his seat and craning his neck to get a view of the game. A mighty cheer went up in the bleachers. Jit saw nothing but the broad shoulders of the man in front of the post.

"What happened?" he asked his neighbor.

"Whatsamatter, you blind?" his neighbor replied. "That was the fanciest play I ever . . ." The rest of his explanation was drowned out in the roaring of the crowd.

Jit knew the game was over when the crowd began to shuffle out of the stands towards the front gates. Wearily, he straggled along, his heart heavy. There was no question about it. He had not enjoyed the afternoon!

But the heaviest blow was still to fall! Bright and early next morning, Jit was among the earliest arrivals at school. He was greeted by Cookie, who grinned at him broadly. "Hey, Jit! Guess where the class went yesterday! Out to the ball game! Part of sports study or sump'n!"

Jit groaned inwardly. To think that he had lied, cheapened himself, made himself miserable! For what?

"Oh, yeah, by the way," Cookie added, as the two boys entered the locker room, "teacher thought it was a shame you had such a bad seat! You could have been sittin' in one o' the field boxes . . . with us!"

Jit groaned aloud. "Oh, my achin conscience!"







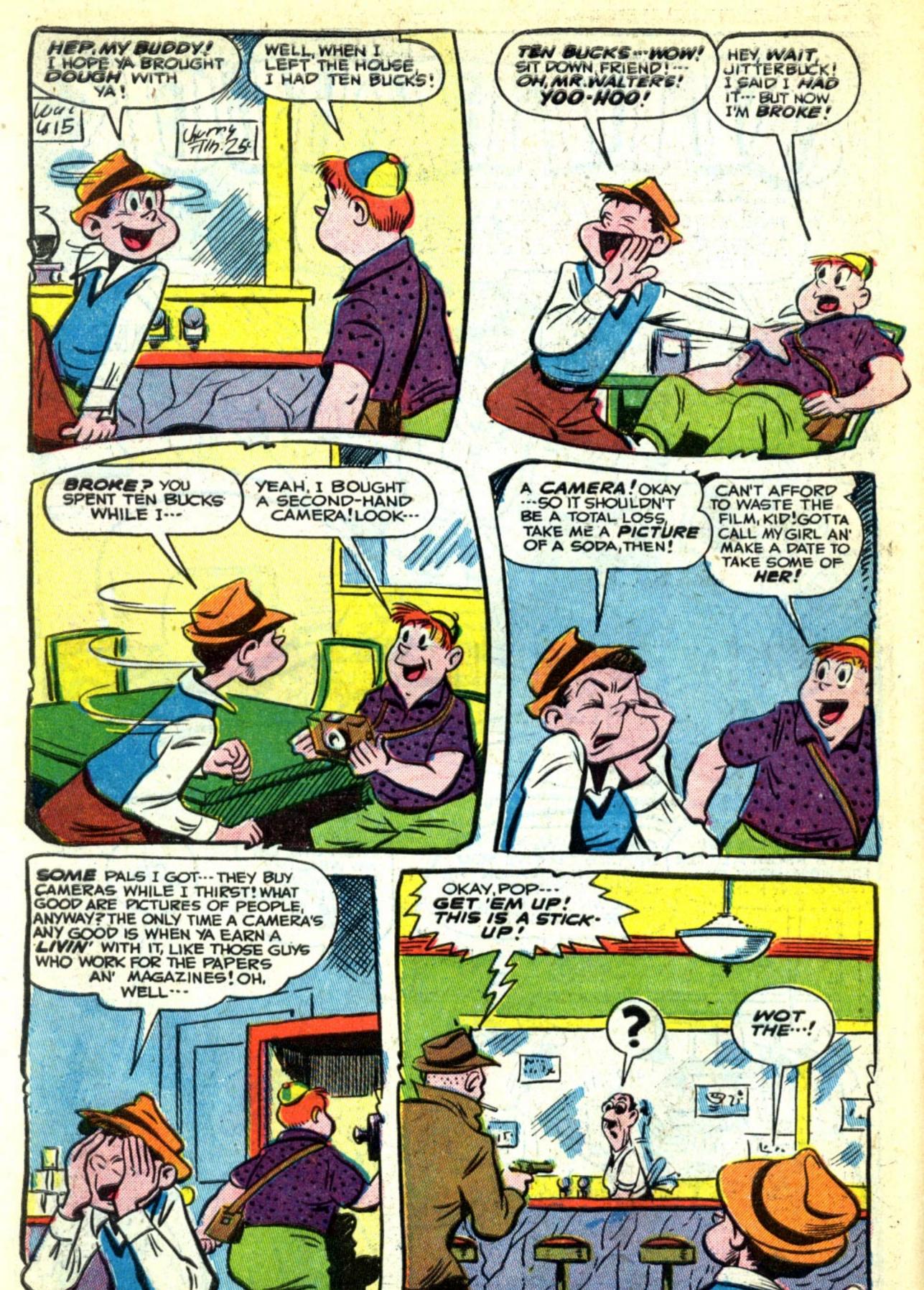








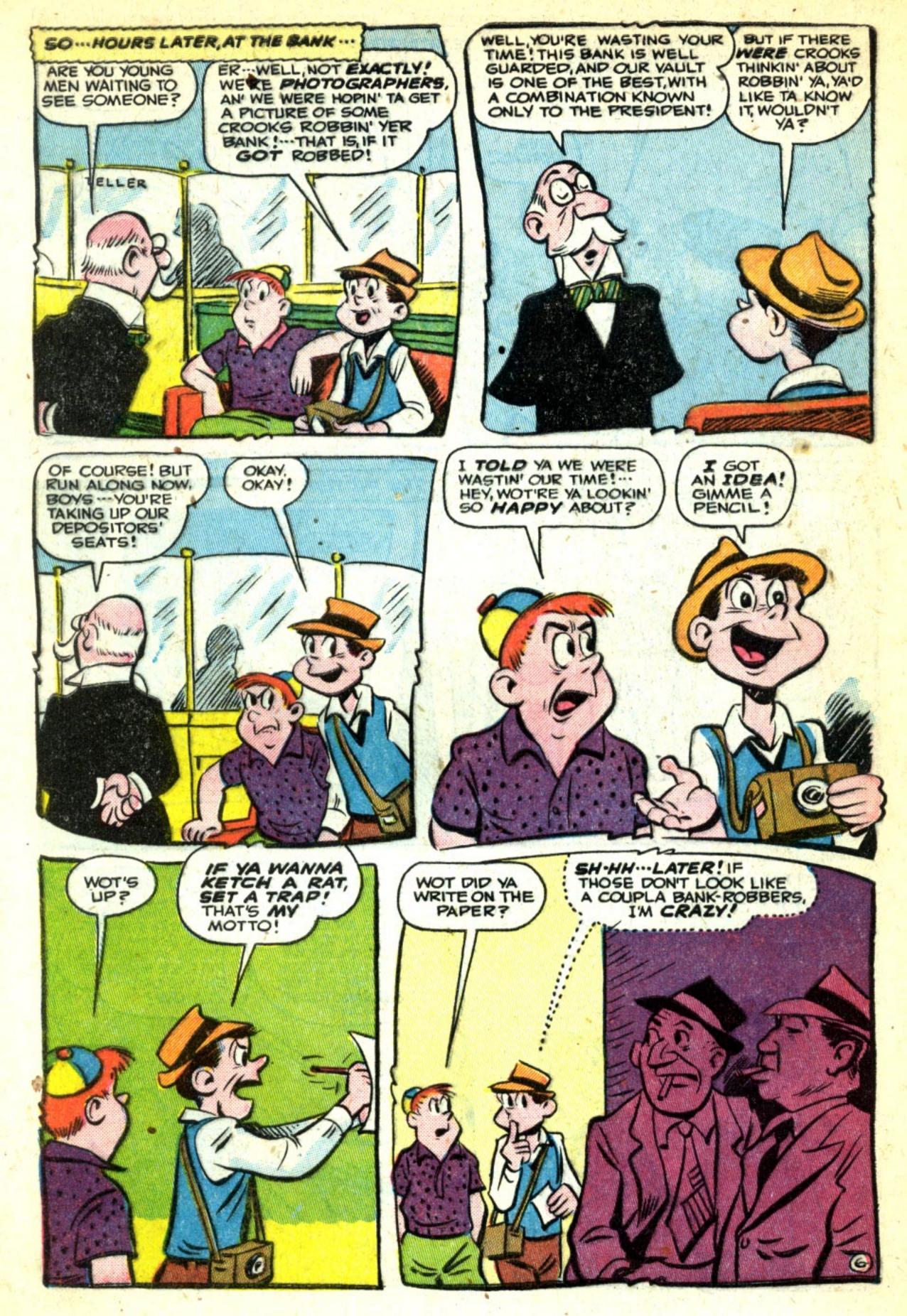


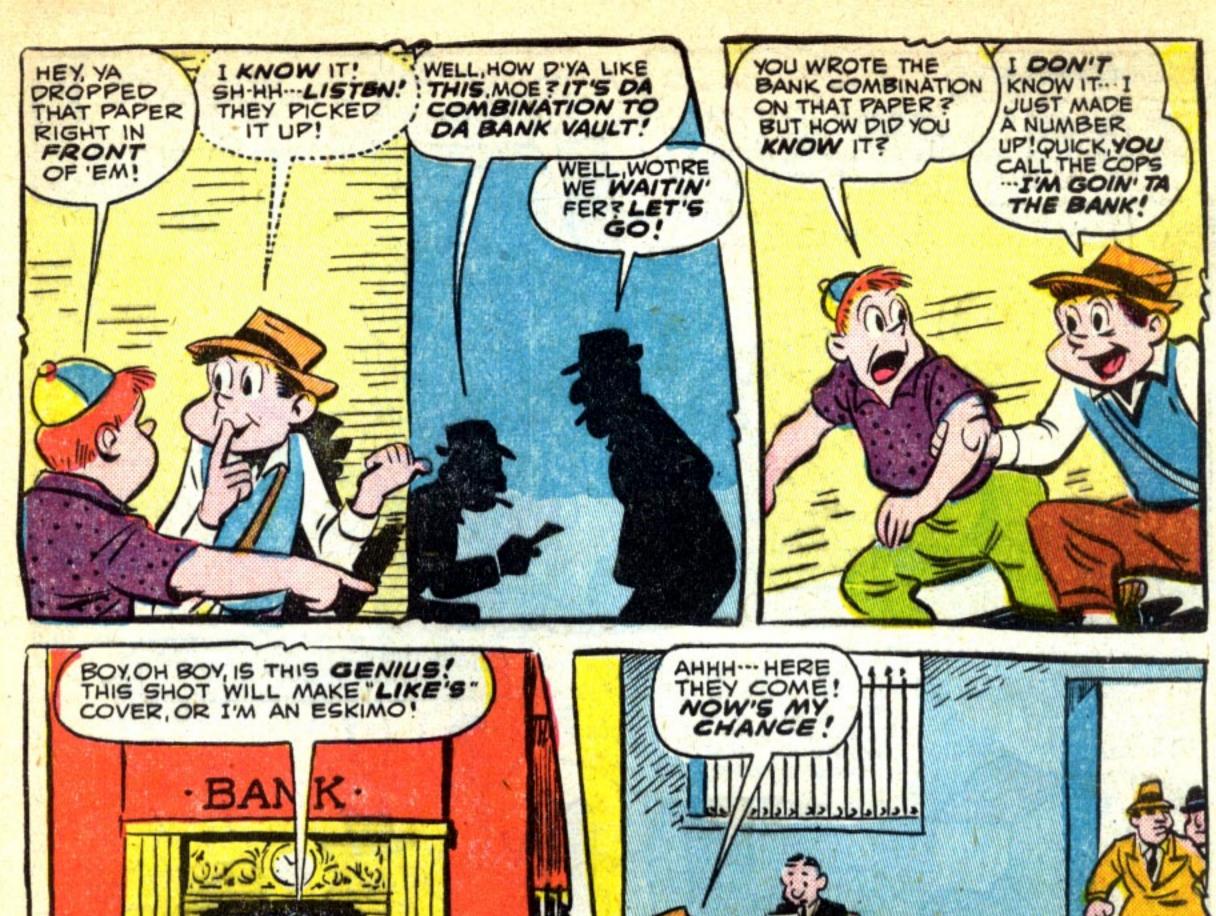


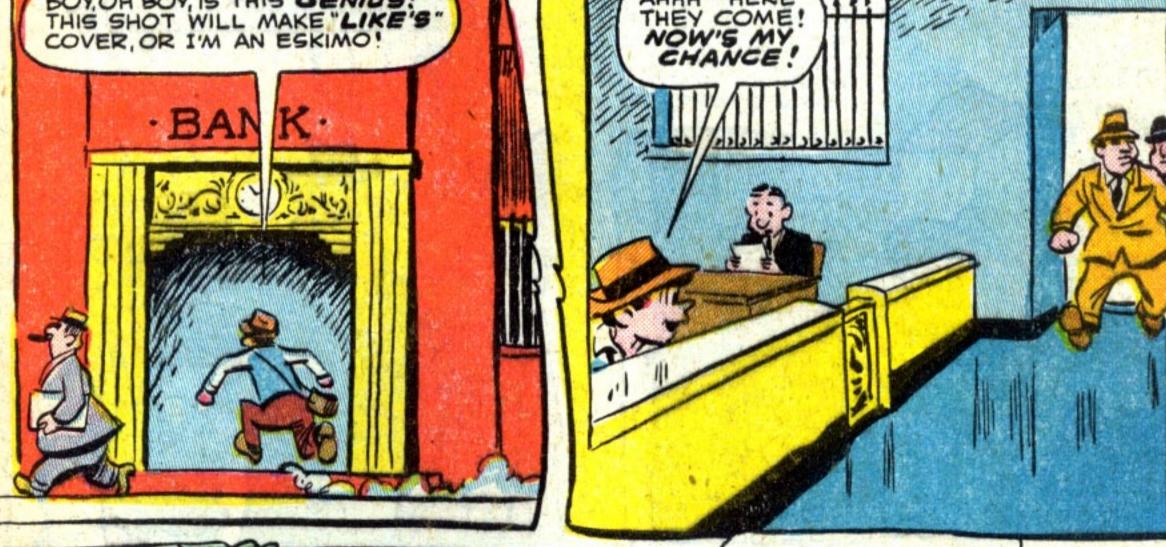


















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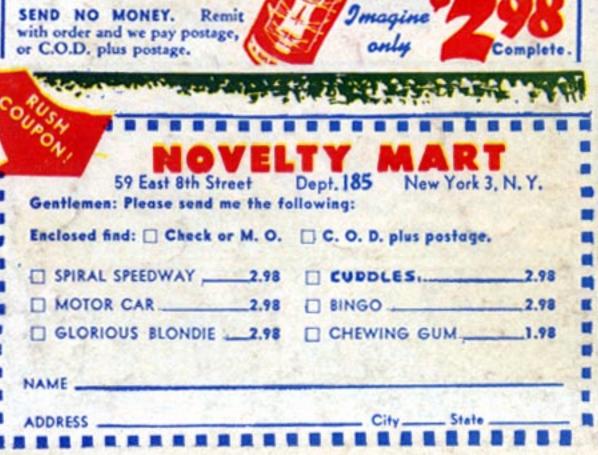
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